(b) if so, which are those three sections and how many companies have evinced interest in setting up private rail-lines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Railway Department's Contract for Accident Relief Crane

3994. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government are seriously going to investigate Railway Department's contract for Accident relief crane (140 tonnes) with two companies *i.e.* United Kingdom's Cowans Shelton and Germany's Gottwald and dealing worth Rs. 132 crore during the year 1996-97; and

(b) if so, by when it is going to investigate and whether Government have found anything wrong and unlawful in the contract agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) On allegations of irregularities in the procurement of the above cranes in Parliament, it is stated that the then Minster of Railways Kum. Mamta Banerjee in 2000 had entrusted the detailed investigation into the entire affair to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). CBI after detailed investigations, did not find any irregularity in the procurement.

Sakari-Nirmali and Jhanjharpur-Laukaha Rail-Line

†3995. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY:
SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Sakari-Nirmali and Jhanjharpur-laukaha Railway Lines gauge conversion under Samastipur division after its foundation laying ceremony by the then Minister of Railways and other two Ministers prior to Lok Sabha elections;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether the Ministry of Defence is also playing any role in providing financial assistance for its construction work, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken by Government for the implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The work of gauge conversion of Saharsa Jn.-Forbesganj and Sakari-Latkaha Bazaar-Nirmali section was included in the Supplementary Budget 2003-04 at an anticipated cost of Rs. 355.81 cr., to be funded through defence funds. Ministry of Defence has not provided any funds during 2004-05. The matter is being pursued with Ministry of Defence for providing funds during the current year. Final location survey has been completed and detailed estimate is under process.

Ongoing Railway Projects in Tamil Nadu

3996. SHRI E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of ongoing railway projects in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the amount spent, so far, on each project;

(c) the amount earmarked for each of the project during 2005-2006; and

(d) the progress of each ongoing project as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) A statement is attached.

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the project	Anticipated Expenditure upto March, 2005	Outlay 2005-06	Status
1	2	3	4	5
NEW LINE				
1.	Bangalore-Satyamangalam	0.36	0.01	Final location survey for 207 kms has been completed. On the balance length, survey is under process.